

**A NEW SPECIES OF *TRIDAX* (ASTERACEAE:
HELIANTHEAE) FROM OAXACA, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Tridax serboana* B.L. Turner, is described from Oaxaca (Mpio. Santiago Yosondúa), Mexico. The taxon is compared to *T. dubia* Rose, but is sufficiently different so as to be considered as possibly generically distinct. Most noteworthy is its annual habit, elongate peduncles bearing but single heads, and markedly conical receptacles. A figure of the holotype is provided.

KEY WORDS: *Tridax*, Asteraceae, Mexico, Oaxaca

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty:

TRIDAX SERBOANA B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** Fig. 1.

Tridax dubiae Rose similes sed differt habitu anno, pedunculis elongates capitula solitarios ferentibus, receptaculis valde conicis (5-6 mm altis, 2 mm latis vs 1.0 mm altis, 2 mm latis, et cetera).

Annual herbs 20-30 cm high. **Stems** tap-rooted, moderately pubescent with multiseptate glandular hairs ca 1.0 mm long. **Leaves** (primary), opposite, sessile, linear-lanceolate, irregularly dentate, 3-4 pairs per stem, 3-5 cm long, 1-2 cm wide. **Heads** ca 7 mm high, 6 mm wide, borne single on peduncles 4-9 cm long; involucre bracts biseriate, 5-6 mm long, pubescent like the stems. **Receptacle** conical, 5-6 mm high, ca 2 mm wide, the pales flabellate, scarious. **Ray florets** 5, pistillate, fertile; corollas yellow, 3-lobed, the tubes ca 2 mm long, densely pilose; rays ca 5 mm long, 5 mm wide, the base of ligules with two

short lobes ca 0.5 mm high. **Disk florets** 20-30; corollas yellowish-green, ca 3 mm long, the tubes ca 0.4 mm long, lobes ca 0.5 mm long, the latter bearing short peculiar greenish hairs on their outer surfaces. **Achenes** of ray florets ca 3 mm long, densely appressed pubescent; pappus of ca 24 fimbriate scales ca 0.5 mm high; achenes of the disk florets similar but less pubescent.

TYPE: **MEXICO. OAXACA:** Distrito Tlaxiaco, Mpio. Santiago Yosondua. "Imperio Santiago Yosondua. Vegetacion secundaria con pino y encino." ca 2248 m, 25 Aug 2005, *Maurita Mendoza Osorio 143* (Holotype: TEX).

Tridax serboana would appear to belong to the sect. *Tridax*, as conceived by Powell (1965), and will key in his treatment to or near *T. dubia* Rose. The latter is a species of dubious affinities, as discussed by Powell and suggested by its epithet. More detailed examination of these two taxa might suggest a basal position in *Tridax*. Indeed, with DNA analysis, *T. serboana* and *T. dubia* might prove worthy of generic status.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Powell, A.M. 1965. Taxonomy of *Tridax* (Compositae). *Brittonia* 17: 47-96.



Fig. 1. *Tridax serboana* (holotype).